

Application No. 10/042,284
Amendment dated May 21, 2004
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminarily, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the allowability of claims 2-3, 9 and 16, and submit that all claims, in light of the present amendments, are now likewise allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1, 5-8, 10-15 and 17-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ishikawa *et al.* (99/52958) as evidenced by Chawla *et al.* (US 5,977,202).

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-15 and 17-23, as amended, will be pending of which claims 1, 9, 14, and 20 are independent. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 2. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 16, and allowable claim 9 has been rewritten as new claim 24.

Finally, with regard to the rejection of claim 20, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons. The Examiner contends that "Ishikawa *et al.* does not teach using mono-functional reactive diluents comprising aromatic rings, thus claims 1, 14 and 20 are anticipated." However, the Applicants note that Ishikawa focuses on compositions comprising at least 20 wt% diluent. In contrast, presently pending claim 20 utilizes at least 85% of a urethane (meth)acrylate oligomer (*i.e.*, less than 20 wt% diluent). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

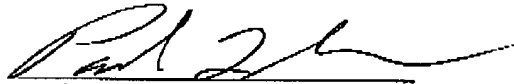
Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 503-121. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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